



New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid Services

Choices for Independence (CFI) Waiver Renewal
Executive Summary
January 2017

Introduction and Overview:

The Choices for Independence (CFI) Waiver is one of four Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 1915c Waivers operated by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, serving approximately 3,500 NH elders and individuals with physical disabilities annually.

Services currently provided under the CFI Waiver include:

- Personal Care Services
- Homemaker Services
- Home Health Aide Services
- Adult Medical Day Care
- Respite Services
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Personal Emergency Response Services [e.g. Lifeline emergency notification systems]
- Environmental Accessibility Services [e.g. wheelchair ramps, stair lifts]
- Specialized Medical Equipment [e.g. shower/tub benches, mechanical lifts]
- Home Delivered Meals
- Community Transition Services
- Residential Care Facility Services
- Supportive Housing Services
- Consolidated Services
- Adult Family Care
- In Home Care Services
- Non-medical Transportation

CFI Waiver participants must meet Nursing Facility Level of Care as outlined in RSA 151-E:3:

I. A person is Medicaid eligible for nursing facility services or Medicaid home and community-based care waiver services if the person is:

(a) Clinically eligible for nursing facility care because the person requires 24-hour care for one or more of the following purposes:

(1) Medical monitoring and nursing care when the skills of a licensed medical professional are needed to provide safe and effective services;

(2) Restorative nursing or rehabilitative care with patient-specific goals;

(3) Medication administration by oral, topical, intravenous, intramuscular, or subcutaneous injection, or intravenous feeding for treatment of recent or unstable conditions requiring medical or nursing intervention; or

(4) Assistance with 2 or more activities of daily living involving eating, toileting, transferring, bathing, dressing, and continence; and

(b) Financially eligible as either:

(1) Categorically needy, as calculated pursuant to rules adopted by the department under RSA 541-A; or

(2) Medically needy, as calculated pursuant to rules adopted by the department under RSA 541-A.

Waiver Renewal

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The current CFI Waiver expires on June 30, 2017. In order to continue to provide CFI Waiver Services on July 1, 2017 NH DHHS is required to request renewal of the CFI Waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as follows:

- January 30, 2017: Complete a first draft of the CMS 1915c Waiver Renewal Application and make the draft public
- January 30 - February 28, 2017: Hold public hearings and accept public/stakeholder input on the Waiver Renewal Application
- February 28, 2017-March 30, 2017: Integrate the public/stakeholder input into the final draft of the Waiver Renewal Application
- March 30, 2017: Submit the Waiver Renewal Application to CMS
- March 30, 2017- June 30, 2017: CMS Reviews Waiver Renewal Application
- July 1, 2017: CMS Approval and 5 Year Renewal

Enhanced Public/Stakeholder Input Process:

NH DHHS chose to enhance the CMS required public input process by holding CFI Waiver “Listening Sessions” to elicit public/stakeholder input during November and December of 2016. Five Listening Sessions were held and 58 stakeholders took part in the sessions. Many of the recommendations made in the Listening Sessions have been integrated into the first draft of the Waiver Renewal Application. We look forward to receiving additional helpful suggestions and input during the formal public hearing period and anticipate making additional changes to the Renewal Application as a result of this input.

Themes from the Listening Sessions include:

- Concerns regarding workforce capacity and its impact on services. A suggestion was made to allow flexibility so that different services could be substituted when there is a workforce shortage of providers for a specific service category;
- Recommendations for streamlining the eligibility and redetermination processes, consideration of a 3 month retroactive service coverage to address timeliness of initial eligibility and redeterminations and implementation of presumptive eligibility;
- Feedback supporting the revision of services offered on the waiver, including participant directed services, transportation and PT, OT and Speech Therapy in excess of state plan limits;
- Recommendation to implement components of the NH DD and NH ABD waivers in the CFI waiver: for example participant managed and directed services and support to individuals who wish to self-direct their services;
- Suggestions regarding increased access to Adult Medical Day Services including when someone lives in Adult Family Care or Kinship Care; and,
- Recommendations for aligning the provision of personal care services and non-medical transportation services.

NH DHHS is required to highlight significant changes in the Waiver Renewal Application as part of the public input process. Significant changes include:

- Content demonstrating compliance with CMS regulations governing Home and Community Based Care Services (HCBS) published in January 2014. These federal regulatory changes relate to:

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- ensuring that participants have access to Conflict Free Case Management
 - ensuring that services that are provided in Home and Community Based [not institutional] Settings; and,
 - ensuring that services are provided based on a Person Centered Planning process.
- An overview of Rate Setting Methodology
- Modifications to Quality Measures and Reporting to comply with CMS Expectations published in March 2014. The state is required to have measurable goals and objectives relating to CFI Waiver quality of services.
- Addition of new services/service definitions including:
 - A new service that allows for Participant Direction and Management of Services [a priority identified by multiple stakeholder groups] as well as a new Fiscal Intermediary service to support Participant Direction;
 - A new service for the provision of Supported Employment [a priority identified by several stakeholder groups] to increase employment by individuals receiving Waiver services;
 - Clarification of the non-medical transportation benefit to ensure transportation is available to participants to access the community;
- Information about the State's HCBS Statewide Transition Plan: all states were required to submit a Statewide Transition Plan [STP] to CMS, describing how the State will comply with the January 2014 federal regulatory changes noted previously. NH has submitted its Plan to CMS as required and is awaiting approval of the Plan from CMS.
- Additional Level of Care Instruments:
 - The MEA [Medicaid Eligibility Assessment] is the current tool required for evaluation of CFI Waiver clinical eligibility and CFI Waiver Level of Care. Based on public/stakeholder input, the use of two additional functional assessment instruments are being proposed, the OASIS [used in Home Care] and the MDS [used in nursing facilities].
 - The addition of these instruments is intended to reduce duplication of efforts by using assessment tools that are already completed for prospective CFI Waiver participants and/or for those who are seeking annual level of care re-determination.
 - This is intended to reduce the cost associated with CFI Waiver eligibility determinations and re-determinations and reduce the administrative burden associated with eligibility and level of care determinations at the community/stakeholder level and the department/state level. It is also expected that this will reduce the timeframe for initial applications for CFI eligibility and annual eligibility/level of care redeterminations.

Public Hearings/Public Input Sessions:

NH DHHS is hosting three public hearings. Participants may attend in person, by phone or by Zoom web conference. The dates, times and locations of these public hearings are listed below:

February 8, 2017 from 10am-12noon
Brown Auditorium
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

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February 9, 2017 from 1pm-3pm
Brown Auditorium
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

February 15, 2017 from 5:30pm-7:30pm
Brown Auditorium
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

To register to attend any of the public hearings in person, by phone or via Zoom video conference, please go to: https://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=23073

The complete version of the initial draft waiver renewal document was made available for public review on January 30, 2017 at: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/medicaid/>

The draft waiver renewal document may also be viewed in hard copy from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday at the NH Department of Health and Human Services, 129 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301-3857.

Public comments may be submitted until midnight on February 28, 2017.

Comments may be submitted by email to nhcfiwaiverrenewalinput@dhhs.nh.gov or by United States Postal Service to Lorene Reagan, NH Department of Health and Human Services, 129 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301-3857.

For more information about Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/hcbs/authorities/index.html>.